

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102 - REFERENCE ANTEDATED

The prior art rejection (i.e., the 35 USC §102 rejection of claims 11 and 19-25 as being anticipated by Mackay et al. (U.S. Patent 5,148,154)) is respectfully traversed. More particularly, Applicant respectfully notes that an effective filing date (December 4, 1990) of the MacKay et al. reference falls between the present application's U.S. filing date (September 25, 1997) and the present application's foreign priority date (November 30, 1990), and accordingly, such reference can be removed as valid prior art by the filing of an English language translation of Applicant's foreign priority document(s) together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. Attached herewith is an English language translation of Applicant's foreign priority document(s), together with Applicant's representative's statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. Based upon the following, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejections are respectfully requested.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that claims 1-10, 12-18 and 26 have already been allowed, and the further fact that the remaining prior art rejected claims 11 and 19-25 should now be in condition for allowance owing to the antedating of the Mackay et al. reference, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any

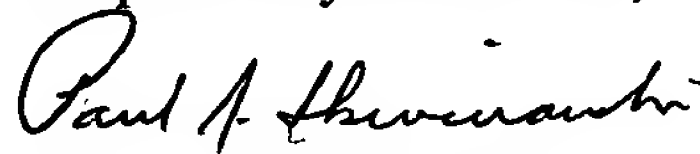
Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 500.30789R00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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